

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein.

Claims 6-8, 10, and 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 3,789,441). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Weiss does not disclose a fitted sheet having a central rectangular area flanked by side margins, wherein said side margins are folded under said central area and joined thereto by seams extending *across each end of said central rectangular area*, as recited in independent claim 6. The Examiner relies on top surface panel 12 of Weiss as being equivalent to the claimed central rectangular area and on side panels 14-17 of Weiss as being equivalent to the claimed side margins. However, in Weiss the side panels are joined to *each other* by seams 18 and not to the top surface panel. Further, seams 18 do not extend across each end of the top surface panel. Weiss discloses a conventional fitted sheet in which squared notches are cut in the corners of a rectangle of textile fabric. The edges of the notches are brought together and a seam is sewn up each corner to form the fitted sheet. This type of seam described in Weiss is a vertical seam, as the seam is vertical when fitted onto a mattress. Weiss does not disclose any type of seam sewn on the top surface panel. Thus, a seam sewn across each end of the central rectangular area to connect the folded-over side margins thereto is absent from Weiss.

Further, Weiss does not disclose a fitted sheet having a rectangular panel of knit material that has side edges that are not finished, and at the end of said sheet, said seams are sewn *transversely over the ends of said unfinished edges*, as

required by independent claim 6. Rather, as discussed above, the seams 18 sewn in Weiss are sewn vertically over the ends of the side panels 14-17.

Further still, Weiss does not disclose a fitted sheet having unfinished side edges, wherein the unfinished edges are rolled into a curled edge prior to being sewn flat, as required by independent claim 6. Instead, Weiss points to lower edges 24 of the sheet and states that the edges “will be rolled into several layers and stitched to prevent ravelling of the cut edges, all in well known manner.” Here, Weiss is referring to the fact that a rolled-over seam is sewn around the lower edge of the sheet, which is conventional. In contrast, claim 6 requires that the side edges of the panel are unfinished and are instead rolled into a curled edge. The seams are sewn only at the top and bottom edges of the sheet, thereby leaving the entire side seam unsewn over the length of the sheet.

Because, Weiss does not disclose each and every limitation as set forth in claim 6, Weiss cannot anticipate such claim, or claims 7-8, which depend therefrom. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claim 10, Weiss does not disclose sewing a seam *across each end of the fabric*, thereby to *join the folded-over edges of the fabric to the main body* thereof in a folded over state, wherein said slit edges are sewn to said main body in an unfinished state. Rather, Weiss discloses joining *ends of the side panels* to each other via seams 18. The seams 18 of Weiss are not sewn across each *end of the fabric*, the ends of the fabric being the opposing edges of the length of the fabric, as required by the limitation of claim 10, which states “slitting said length of fabric along its length in a straight line from end to end”. Further, the seams 18 of Weiss do not join the side panels to the top surface panel.

Because, Weiss does not disclose each and every limitation as set forth in claim 10, Weiss cannot anticipate such claim, or claims 12-13, which depend therefrom. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 14, Weiss fails to disclose cutting a shallow corner from each end of said tube of fabric, at the slit side thereof, *from first points on the cut edge* near the end, to *second points on the end*, near the folded-over mid-line of the slit tube of fabric, wherein the cut is a generally straight line. The Examiner relies on the two arcuately cut edges 20, 22 of Weiss as being equivalent to the claimed shallow corner cut from a *first point* on the *cut edge* to a *second point* on the *end*. As clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Weiss: edge 20 was made by cutting from a first point on the end of the tube of fabric to a second point located within the panel of fabric (i.e., not on an edge); and edge 22 was made by cutting from a first point on the cut edge to a second point located within the panel of fabric (i.e., not on an end of the fabric). Further, neither of the cuts are made in a generally straight line, as required by claim 14. Instead the cuts 20, 22 of Weiss are arcuate in order to “draw the lower edge extremities 24 of the side panels inward under the bottom of the mattress” (Col. 4, ll. 17-19).

Further, Weiss fails to disclose opening the fabric and folding the side margins thereof inwardly so that at each corner thereof, *the first points are laid on top of the second points*, as required by claim 14. Instead, Weiss discloses joining two arcuate edges 20, 22 of a corner together by a corner seam 18. The edges 20, 22 of Weiss are not laid on top of each other. Further, the configuration of the corner formed by edges 20 and 22 is such that it requires a minimum of three cut points. To join the edges 20, 22 by corner seam 18, the first cut point could not logically be joined to the second cut point, as required by claim 14.

Further still, Weiss fails to disclose sewing a seam across the top and bottom ends of the fabric, to join the folded-over margins to the main body of the sheet, as recited in claim 14. As discussed above, the seams 18 sewn in Weiss are sewn vertically along edges 20, 22 and are not sewn *across the top and bottom ends* of the fabric. Further, assuming that the side panels 14, 16 of Weiss can be considered equivalent to the claimed folded-over margins, the seams 18 do not join the side

panels 14, 16 to the top panel 12. Rather, the seams 18 join the side panels 14, 16 to each other.

Because, Weiss does not disclose each and every limitation as set forth in claim 14, Weiss cannot anticipate such claim, or claim 15, which depends therefrom. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the said fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 34200.

Respectfully submitted,
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